GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4388
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2000
PANEL TO MONITOR FOODSTUFF
SUDARSANA E.M. NATCHIAPPAN

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned `Government fails to set up panel to monitor foodstuff` appearing in `The Times of India` dated July 10, 2000;

(b) whether the Government are aware that sixty-six people died due to dropsy caused by adulterated mustard oil in 1998;

(c) if so, the reasons for not setting up the commission for this purpose; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) & (d) The Govt. of NCT of Delhi has intimated that they had contemplated in August/September, 1998 in the wake of the dropsy tragedy to appoint a Commission to go into the question of dropsy cases. However, the CBI investigated one case relating to dropsy death (FIR No. 496/98 dated 25.8.1998 at P.S. Najafgarh, New Delhi) and filed charge sheet against accused persons under various provisionS of IPC in the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Delhi on 23.11.1998. Besides the above, 385 FIRs were registered in various Police Stations by the Delhi Police. The Govt. of NCT of Delhi does not contemplate to appoint any Commission at this stage.